The QUARAE

Volume 12, Issue 8 August 2011

Radio Association of Erie
General Membership Meeting Minutes

The July 2011 General Membership meeting of the Radio Association of the Radio Association of Erie was called to order by President AD4UL at 7:04 p.m.

The following board members were present: AD4UL, N3NKV, KB3GYR, K3PLV, N3JOC, KB3NAT, N3DBC, KE3V.

AD4UL suspended all business for a DVD presentation on SAREX.

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m

New Ham: None

Visitors: N8WXQ Frank

Secretary: Motion to accept minutes as printed in QUARAE made by KB3GYR Seconded by KB3BAM. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: KB3GYR provided updated report

Board Report : AD4UL gave a synopsis of the board meeting of June ??. Topics discussed included: closing out the safe deposit box; status of capital funds; 440 repeater; proposed purchase of Service monitor; Field Day; Cable for Computer Control of TS-2000; Formation of Equipment committee; ways to promote the club; classes; strategic planning survey. N8WXQ brought up the idea of cafepress.com website. They have various promo products. The club he was president of in Connecticut used their service. Membership: KB3GYR reported we have 99 members.

Repeater: A vote was taken to see what members thought about keeping the 61 and 82 repeaters linked permanently. The results were that a high percentage of members were in favor of keeping the 61 and 82 repeaters 24/7. With that in mind, Jeremy said that some programming changes needed to be done to change courtesy tones on 61. As for 82, the new repeater should be online within the next week.

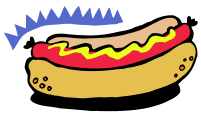
Public Service: AD4UL mentioned that the next two public service events were the Presque Isle Triathlon on August 27 and the Juvenile Diabetes Walk on September 24th. N3DBC made a motion that the club participate in these events. Seconded by KB3BAM. All in Favor.

Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting this Thursday

Program: US ARDF CHAMPIONSHIP
Time: 7 PM

Location: RAE Clubhouse – 3940 Wagner RD in Mckean Twp.

Also, we will be having hot dogs before the meeting at 6 pm.



Clubhouse: KB3JZM reported that that he has an alternative plan for the shutters for the clubhouse. He is looking into using corrugated metal roofing.

Website: N3NKV had nothing new to report

Newsletter: N3NKV had nothing to report

Education: N3NKV reported that that would be more details about the upcoming class soon.

Old Business: None

New Business:
Liability Insurance: N3NKV reported that ARRL's has a new endorsed Liability insurance company. The insurance would be through the ARRL would be $200. The club also received a quote from ARRL's previous insurance company Marsh and their quote was $385. AD4UL made a motion to go with the ARRL insurance for liability. Seconded by N3DBC. All in Favor.

Proposed Purchase of Service Monitor: KB3BAM presented a powerpoint presentation about a proposal for the purchase of a service monitor. The service monitors are used and came out of service from testing cell phones. The vendor for the equipment is Amtromix and warrants the equipment and is located in Lakewood, NY. Estimated cost for the Service monitor before accessories is $950. AD4UL asked KB3BAM to provide to the board of directors with a complete price breakdown for purchasing said service monitor. KB3BAM mention the reason that the club is in need of a service monitor is because he no longer has access to the one he was using. In order to set the audio levels on the repeater, one is required.

KB3NAT reported that the Airport drill would take place on Wed. August 24th.

KB3NAT report that the NW PA Hamfest would take place on Saturday July ??

N3SRF asked if the club owned a GIN POLE. KE3V mention the club did. George was interested in using it.

50/50 Winner Gene $8.

Motion to Adjourn Made by KB3BAM, Seconded by KB2GYR at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lis
RAE Secretary.

Radio Association of Erie
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2011

The July board meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President AD4UL.

Board Members Present: AD4UL, KE3V, N3NKV, KB3GYR, WB3DOM, N3DBC, KB3NAT

Not Present: K3PLV and N3JOC

1. Membership- KB3GYR reported that 2 new memberships were received
2. Change of Trustee for W3ERC call- AD4UL reported that he has the paperwork for KB3RIT to Sign to change W3ERC to his call. ARRL is handling it.
3. Investments- AD4UL reported that he has contacted Fidelity and they mailed him a corporate resolution form to be completed to change the signators on the account. A vote was taken by all board members on whom shall be the new signators on the fidelity account. The three individuals shall be (NAMES ARE ON FILE IN SECRETARY'S MINUTES). As for the Vanguard account, all activity is on hold on till N3LBI Return from Canada.

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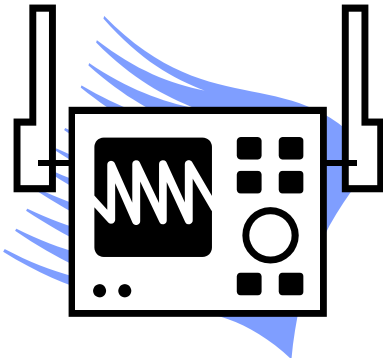
4. Membership Survey- N3NKV emailed the results of the survey to the board members earlier in the week. The board discussed some of the various responses. N3NKV mentioned that he would post them in the next QUARAE along with a response from the board.
5. New Net—After reading through the survey, the board decided one way to get local hams more involved in the club would be to have a net at 9 pm on 61. The net's name would be called the Ragchew Net. At first it will be on 61 with plans on linking to 82. The start date for the net would be August 22 . On Saturday at 9 pm, the net will have a different twist. It with be known as the 9 pm tech net. Each net will start will start out on the repeaters and then switch to simplex. As of present we are still looking for net controls.
6. WB3DOM said he would pick up the hot dogs for the club meeting.
7. There was a discussion of programs for the meeting.
8. KB3NAT mentioned that at the next meeting he would be asking for help for the airport drill.
9. N3NKV mentioned that the club may want to start looking at Christmas party locations. Earlier in the year, it was brought up to go back to Nunzis again. N3NKV mentioned he would contact Nunzis.
10. AD4UL mentioned that elections are coming up soon.

Motion to Adjourn Made by KB3GYR. Seconded by KE3V at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lis
Radio Association of Erie Secretary.

Ragchew Net to Begin Monday August 22!!!

The new Ragchew net will meet on the 61 repeater at 9 pm Mondays through Fridays. The Ragchew net 2-Meter Net will offer an opportunity for check-ins to talk about the day's events and to hear what fellow hams are doing. Be sure to tune in periodically for announcements of local Amateur Radio activities or Public Service events. The Ragchew Net is a directed net, and offers the opportunity for new Amateur operators to learn net skills.



Depending on the success of this net, we may have a Tech Net with a Swap and Shop one night a week.

Please note that the format of this nets will be a lot different from the Sunday night ARES/RACE/SKYWARN nets. Normal net protocol will be observed. We are looking for net controls for these nets. If you would like to be a net control, please contact Doug AD4UL.

In the near future, the net will be linked to the 82 repeater.

RAE Planning Survey Responses

The board of directors would like to thank those who took the planning survey. The board recently had an opportunity to view the responses. The text in **blue** is the response from the board of directors. The board of directors is looking into the feasibility of many of these ideas and projects. Some of these idea projects may or may not come to fruition. The members of the RAE are the ones that make the final decisions. To see change within the RAE, the best thing you can do is:

- Come to one of our meetings.
- Help by being a presenter at a club meeting
- Chair a committee or help on committee
- Help out for a public service event
- Be net control for the new Ragchew or planned Tech net

_____

Number of Surveys Completed: 33
Breakdown by Membership Status:
1 Associate Member
24 Full Members
1 Life member
2 Individuals who have let their memberships lapse 10+ years
1 Individual who had let their memberships lapse 5-10 years
2 Individuals who let their memberships 1-4 years
2 Individuals who have never been members.
****

How could we improve?
More activities **We need more members to help with planning of the activities.**
less politics, more focus on serving members and community **Already done through our public service events. Club meetings are not as political like in the 1980s and early 90s.**
get more members, become more active in the community, have classes, upgrade/clean up the clubhouse, trying a different place for field day, **Classes are being planned for fall 2011. Clubhouse Cleanup- We need people to help us. Field Day- idea was brought up with teaming up with another local club for a bigger field day.**
More cooperation with Western NY amateurs for Skywarn, ARES, and RACES. Joint drills maybe?- **The ARES/RACE/SKYWARN groups for NWPA/SWNY need to handle this. The RAE supports these organizations and their missions.**
Paid my dues but never had a member say, welcome to the organization. Or make any contact with me.

Could that be made into an improvement ??
All members should have received membership cards. Other ideas in the works.

Try having a social net to help new members get acquainted and provide a forum to get information about equipment without the need to attend meetings.
Look for the Ragchew new on August 22nd!

Support for Red Cross, Skywarn, and RACES.
Support for Boy Scouts
The RAE supports these organizations and their missions.

Try more meetings on Saturdays. Open the clubhouse up once a month for operating. Improve field day- try something different.
Tried Saturday meetings there was no difference in attendance. HF nets may be run from the clubhouse. As for Field Day, idea was brought up with teaming up with another local club for bigger field day.

Promote, promote, promote. You stated in your newsletter that the media did not show up for field day. Well, with respect to all of you, did anyone write a Press Release? Calling them on the phone is never been a good way to get Good Publicity. The club needs a Public Relations Officer, someone to write and release to all the media outlets what the club is doing to better the community.

A Public Relations Officer is going to be your best tool. He or she will be the voice and face of your club. The club needs to become a house hold name not something that comes up once a year.

If your going to provide free Public Event Services you need to insist that the club name appear on all flyers, TV spots and publications. This is the something that all sponsors insist on, ie TV stations, radio stations, UPMC, Pepsi and Coke to name a few.

One more thing to think about. I hear hams always calling it a “Hobby”. I thing we as hams need to change our thinking from a “hobby“ to “a public service agencies”. This means providing more training with Police, Fire, Border Patrol, and other emergency agency’s.

FCC Part 97.1 "first and foremost" cites the amateur radio service as a means of providing capable emergency communications systems in case of need by the public (AKA people) or public service agencies. Nowhere is the word HOBBY used in and FCC or ITU documentation.
Press Releases were sent out to all Erie TV Stations and the Erie Times News for Field Day. For the tv releases, they were sent twice. Now that management of the media outlets in Erie has changed, so has whether or not the RAE gets in the news. As for the public service events, certain events do publish our groups name in their publications and/or website.

Get the old and new hams on the air more. Not much traffic being heard on any of the VHF, UHF, 6 meters, 220 mhz., or 1.2 Ghz. frequencies. Install voting repeaters to help in the coverage of the repeaters. Perhaps getting new repeaters on 220, 6 meters and 1.2 Ghz. might also expand our learning capabilities and have fun on other frequencies. We need to keep our frequencies active or we may lose them to other services, perhaps indefinitely. On field day, get more traffic active and moving so

to speak on all the VHF and UHF frequencies. **The club already owns 2 VHF repeaters and 1 UHF repeater. We have a repeater committee of 3 people-- 1 Committee Chairman, 1 Technician, and 1 helper. This group needs more hands and cannot do everything. The 6 meter station was used during field day.**
Honest answer....Too much politics and too much attitude for my taste. I maintained my membership for years even though I rarely used the repeater because I thought that supporting it was important, but not any longer.
The club needs more activities. Keep business meetings as short as possible. Possibly go to having business meetings four times a year. **We need more people to present at club meetings. Having only 4 business meeting per year would not be feasible. There is a lot of important business that needs to be voted on upon by the membership.**
utilize the clubhouse year around. **The heating system at the clubhouse is an oil heater. The heater is 50+ years old and starting to show its age.**
improved countywide coverage with the use of remote receivers and increase of transmitter power. **Will forward to repeater committee for consideration.**
How about a card after things change hands with the secretary?? I paid mine the same day another person paid, she got two cards, I got one card five months later, with the old address!!! What the *&%$! **Being looking into for 2012.**
run the club as a voice of the club not a voice of the few. people are not stupid just uninformed, let them know what needs to be done and not just why you are doing it.
Forget this "emergency communications" stuff! We ain't in that business anymore! How about using Amateur Radio bands and modes for club/member nets, rather then "Homeland Security" / 911 Center Nets? There ain't no more weather service in Erie, own up to that fact OK? **The RAE supports ARES/RACES/SKYWARN and their missions. Look for the new Ragchew and possible Tech net coming in August!**

What would you keep the same?
keep the link up to 61/82.
You have a strong Skywarn Program keep up the good work. Newsletter is great.
Keep prompting ham radio to young people.
Club house, repeaters
Although I will never support a formal consortium of representatives of local clubs presided over by third party leadership, I am most happy when the local clubs are playing well together.

You seem to be doing a good job. I'm unable to attend the meetings, so I rely on others, and the newsletter to keep me informed.
The repeater frequencies.
Very little if your want things to stay the same.
The nets, SKYWARN, ARES and other specific traffic information and emergency nets. Also keep the nets on the original frequencies.
The club house
the excellent presentations and use of the video conferencing
nothing
Field Day maybe, but be more open to the public rather them running them off trying to run a contest, OK? Be a Ham Radio club, rather than a "repeater club!" **As for Field Day, idea was brought up with teaming up with another local club for bigger field day.**

What new activities would you like to see the club get involved in or see a demonstration on at a club meeting?
More contesting
digital modes, kit building projects, antenna projects, emergency preparedness and NIMS incentives.
I think it would be nice to see some of the HF nets run from the clubhouse. It might help to get some of the newer hams active on the nets. the Novice Tech net and the Lake Erie Emergency net are two that come to mind.
foxhunting, antenna building, working the digital modes
Provide live streaming video of the meetings via Ustream to people that can't make it to the meetings. **Great idea except no high speed internet at clubhouse and the internet is slow at the Red Cross. Looking into saving meetings on a survey for viewing at a later time.**
basket weaving how an antenna work how to crimp anderson power poles
As long as I am able to afford to do so, I am happy to pay dues as part of my effort to support your important, influential, and productive local club. I am only sorry that I am not able to attend meetings.
Get more members into presenting programs. The movies are starting to get stale already.
none
More hands on training with Police, Fire, Border Patrol, and other emergency agency's.
Experimentation such as "mountaintopping" and the equipment necessary for such a project on 1.2 Ghz. Getting ham radio more attention; ie, show non - hams and the general public that ham radio is quite diverse and capable to communicate with others

in emergency or non-emergency activities.
I would like to see the club meeting have a training session on some aspect of ham radio at every meeting.
JT-65
There is very little reason/benefit to be a RAE club member. Membership in a club usually means you are filling some sort of a void. This club does not promote ham radio via license schools, does not provide VE testing, group antenna parties (to benefit members) or anything much that involves groups of the club members. It's tough to even get people for Field Day. Most would rather be somewhere else rather than dealing with certain club members. We do participate in a number of community things, providing communications for special events. This is good. **Classes are being planned for fall 2011. VE Testing is being looked at. Group antenna parties sponsored by the club are a liability if a club activity. Around 30 visitors stopped by the RAE field day site.**
It would be nice for the club to consider Allstar (echolink) to return to the repeater and the setup could also allow the return of the radio reference internet audio feed for all to listen to. **High Speed Internet would be needed at both repeater sitea.**
fox hunting equipment building and possibly some power line rf finding demonstrations
Ever think of approaching groups like the school ROTC's or the Civil Air Patrol? How about going back to the basics? Talk about upper and lower sideband use... like in RTTY and voice, like proper CW etiquette. HF Radio and antenna maintenance/lightning protection topics!
INSTRUCTION ON NARROWBAND

Repeater Related:
How would you rate your usage of the Radio Association of Erie repeaters?
Average 3.334375 / 10.0
How would you rate the repeater's performance and coverage overall?
Average 5.15625/ 10.0

How would you rate the repeater's performance and coverage overall?
Better reception for .61 in east and west county. Don't link all the time. Nice to have two with the ability to link them.
146.61- buy better equipment, acquire better site, forget the permanent link 146.82- buy better equipment, add remote base
Link on demand only. Get the new equipment installed on 82 b4 it becomes antique radio equipment. We keep hearing next weekend but next weekend never comes.
sell the 440 repeater. talk with Gannon about purchasing/using their repeater equipment and find a home for it. Find a better tower site for 61 to cover the

lakeshore/thruway area.
nothing at this time
Good Job, dependable!
I don't think that it is necessary to keep two repeaters linked all the time. We all should have the ability to link if it is deemed necessary.
61- Improve coverage in town by moving to one of the tv towers or to the 911 center or to the water tanks. 82- Great tower site but was not meant for downtown qsos. We need have the repeaters linked. Nice to talk from Crawford County back into downtown Erie.
none
If I were you I would look into setting up voting repeaters all around the county. It would be great if the county had one frequency. That way when out of town hams come into the county by I-79, I-90 or even by boats on the lake there is only one frequency that they have to worry about. I have traveled in other states with county's much bigger then Erie where no matter where you go all you need is a 2 watt HT.
As mentioned above, have repeaters on 6 meters, 220, and 1.2 Ghz. to make VHF and UHF more interesting and fun. Perhaps invite others interested in these frequencies to install repeaters on these frequencies if the club doesn't have the funds to put a repeater on the air. **We have a limited amount of people to take care of the equipment owned and operated by the club. In addition, finding high locations for these frequencies will be good luck.**
Even with all the new equipment there still seems to be a lot of repeater issues.
There is too often politics involved with this committee. It would be smart to of group brainstorming and less concern over who has done what and know how to do something to the repeater.
move the .61
get it done right and leave it alone and ask for the right help to fix it
Why do we have so many "bells & whistles?" What's wrong with a simple, local operations, maybe link RAE repeaters, why do we need to link the world?
THANKS!

General Report in regards to repeaters

We have a limited amount of people to take care of the equipment owned and operated by the club. The repeater committee consists of the repeater chairman, a repeater technician, and a helper.

The decision to link 61 and 82 permanent was made at the July meeting. Some of these responses were posted prior to that meeting.

As for the equipment, multiple other clubs in Western New York are using a repeater system similar to our setup. The only differences is in the controller, duplexers, and antenna.

Odds and Ends

Echolink Update: Just to let everyone know, there is no definite time frame set when the Echolink will be available on the 61 repeater.

Also, the Radio Reference feed for 61 is also down until further notice. A big thanks goes out to Paul W3PCJ for providing this wonderful service.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: 1- 20 Foot Section of Tower – You Haul it away! Location: RAE Clubhouse! Make Doug's Day!

Find the RAE now on Facebook. To join the RAE Facebook group , click on the Facebook link located at w3gv.org

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